

[26th February, 2001 ]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, the steps his Ministry has suggested in implementing the proposal of "fast track system"; and

(d) by when it is likely to be formulated and introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Central Government have decided to set up 1734 additional courts in the country in the Subordinate Judiciary, based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. These Courts are expected to serve as fast track courts, and dispose of the priority long pending sessions cases, and other criminal cases involving undertrials.

(b) There are about two crore cases pending in the Subordinate Courts where the Scheme of "fast track courts" is being implemented. However, no such general proposal is under consideration of the Government to introduce fast track system of courts in various other courts of the country including High Courts.

(c) and (d) The Scheme includes construction of new court rooms, appointment of *ad hoc* judges and other supporting staff, arrangements for public prosecutors in these courts, arrangements for quick process service etc. These courts are expected to start working with effect from 1.4.2001 and will continue till 31.3.2005. Central Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 502.90 crore for this scheme. Out of this, an allocation of Rs. 202.27 crore has been made for the current year, 2000-2001

#### **Judicial reforms**

455. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed that judicial system has failed to deliver speedy justice;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is considering to formulate judicial reforms immediately;

(c) whether any concrete proposals in this regard are being worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) While expressing that the Indian Judiciary, specially the Supreme Court of India, has set high standards and complimenting the judges for their positive response to the new concern and challenges emerging before a dynamically changing nation, the Prime Minister has expressed concern over the exasperating and increasingly expensive delays of the judicial system.

(b) to (e) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned with the delays in delivery of justice.

Department of Justice has taken some initiatives this year for reducing delays in the judicial system. These include Setting up of Fast Track Courts for expediting the disposal of long-pending cases, priority being given to cases involving undertrials and all Sessions cases pending for two years or more.

A number of other steps are being taken to streamline the judicial system of the country which is an on- going and continuous process. Steps are being taken to simplify the procedures and speed up the disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Keeping this in view, the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 has been moved in Parliament. The Law Commission, in its 54th Report has also made a number of recommendations on the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. Steps have been taken by the High Courts and subordinate courts to reduce and control arrears of cases pursuant to the recommendations of the Malimath Committee. Other steps include increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial officers, establishment of Special courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made for improvement in the infrastructure of all courts including the District courts through extensive use of information technology.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented from 1993-94 under which an amount of Rs. 407.69 crore has been released till January 2001.